(c) CBI has sent its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4.9.1996 after completion of its enquiry into the allegations.

(d) The CBI enquiries neither revealed any evidence nor any indication to show that the telephones of any political persons whose names found mention in newspaper reports, had been intercepted by any of the Govt. agencies during the period 1.6.1996 onwards. The enquiries also revealed that the Prime Minister had not ordered any telephone interception.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

*[Translation]*

**Bungling at Telecommunication Centre, Kanpur**

1089. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bungling at Telecommunication Centre in Kanpur (U.P.) where Pulse IC are changed by tempering Pulse Rate machines in place of 16 K.C. Pulse rate fixed by Telecommunication Department and local call service is provided only for three minutes instead of five minutes and Rs. 2 is charged instead of Rs. 1 and 39 paise;

(b) if so, the revenue lossed by the Government; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) Complaints received in this regard have been investigated. One STD PCO and 10 local PCOs where such malpractices were observed have been disconnected.

*[English]*

**Inferior Quality of Cable**

1090. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the use of inferior quality of cable in installation of telephone lines in Nanded Maharashtra by the authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action propose to take against the erring officials held responsible for loss of revenue and faulty telephone services in Nanded city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. Only standard cables according to DOT specifications duly tested by Quality Assurance Wing of DOT at factory premises are purchased and used in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the Authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

*[Translation]*

**Doubling of Railway Line**

1091. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work on Kazra to Kiul railway line between Bhagalpur and Kiul Railway sections has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be re-started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The level of Traffic and traffic projections on this section does not justify its doubling at present.

*[English]*

**Waiting Period**

1092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the average period of waiting for a telephone connection under the different categories have come down during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

(c) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on date, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the growth of telecommunication network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Category-wise details in this respect are being collected from the Circles and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per enclosed Statement.

(d) It is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. A high growth rate is also proposed to be maintained in future also.